may set an example for others. Even from a medical point of view, cow flesh is harmful. Early action is necessary as the subject is being repeatedly brought forward in the Assembly from a long time.

Reply of Government.—Government is ascertaining the attitude of all communities and the matter is under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 192.

Batta to witnesses in civil courts.

Messrs. H. Krishna Sastri, Krishnarajpete Taluk; Linge Gowda, Mysore Taluk; B. Narasinga Rao, Seringapatam Taluk; Chandagal Appajaiya, Yedatore Taluk; N. Siddalinga Devaru, Seringapatam Taluk; M. C. Linge Gowda, Mandya Taluk C. Narasimhaya, Heggaddevankote Taluk; A. Ananthiah, Shimoga Taluk; K. Suryanaryan Rao, Tumkur District Board and Javali Hutchappa, Tyamagondlu Municipality.

Summary of Discussion—Rates are recently enhanced. The *batta* for a witness was Rs. 1-8-0 formerly, but now it is Rs. 7. Perhaps the reasons for the change may be sound. Preparation of witness list has become a laborious task now. Even in suits for small sums costs exceed the principal. The *batta* is usually pocketted as the party has to pay all expenses of witnesses if he wants them to depose in his favour.

The Chief Judge explained that the change was due to constant representation in this Assembly. There was no distinction formerly between travelling allowance and subsistence allowance. There were three classes of rates and the lowest rate was paid, if there was a public conveyance. The point was whether mileage rates given otherwise were hard. If within 5 miles no mileage was given, there could possibly be no objection to subsistence allowance.

It was then urged that road mileage was a hardship. The old method was good and cheaper and if a party complained court usually ordered payment. Details in the witness list might be dispensed with. The present rates made litigation almost impossible. It was hard for pleaders to find distances, etc., of the villages. Formerly courts accepted whatever was paid and then if witness complained court awarded fresh *batta*.

The Chief Judge said that without details it was not possible to administer the money paid and that the matter would be enquired into.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be enquired into and if there is any hardship it will be mitigated.

SUBJECT No. 193.

Interest at contract rates from date of suit to the date of decree.

Mr. T. Guruchannabasaviah, Tumkur Municipality.

Summary of Discussion.—In practice, it is only 6 per cent interest that is given. The contract rate is never given. This has led to false and frivolous defences to delay the creditor.

The Chief Judge said that a reasonable rate was always given. In the opinion of the creditor it might not be reasonable. Interest of both parties must be guarded.

Some members urged that after Usurious Loans Regulations no rate could be fixed. Courts did not exercise discretion.

Reply of Government.—Some test cases may be brought forward when the matter will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 194.

Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer, Bangalore City Municipality.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer.—There are only two points to be spoken in connection with the subject. The first is that the present building is not suitable for the following reasons. All kinds of patients are huddled together in one and the same room irrespective of the nature of the disease. There are no special observation wards for new comers. Patients with minor complaints who could have been discharged from hospital earlier if they had been accommodated in a separate room have to remain for a longer time in the hospital as they are associated with patients suffering from the same disease in a more